

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT

SOULS OF THE BRAVE Small Group Discussion Guide

LESSON 1 | “THE SUM OF ALL THEIR FEARS”

1. Even though India is advancing in education, technology, and medicine, the human heart remains the same. How is this evident there today?
2. Consider the statement: “the Hindus’ thinking cannot help but be dominated by the gods they have made, for their gods are the sum of all their fears and fantasies.” How may our fears and fantasies drive us toward gods of our own making?
3. According to Psalm 115:1-11 and Jeremiah 10:1-16, how do idols differ from the one true God?
4. What do the worshippers of Kali most fear? According to Hebrew 2:14-18 how did Christ directly deal with this?

LESSON 2 | “MUD AND STRAW”

1. Consider the statement: “William Carey had a vision for worldwide evangelization when few others had a big enough view of God to see it.” What is the relationship between our view of God and our view of the Great Commission?
2. As the “father of modern missions” with all his accomplishments, does Carey’s epitaph surprise you? *A wretched, poor, and helpless worm, on Thy kind arms I fall.*
3. What does the act of making idols with straw and clay teach us about our own idolatries?
4. How does Isaiah 44:9-20 illustrate the utter foolishness of idolatry? According to Hosea 14:1-9 what hope does God give to idolaters?

LESSON 3 | “DEATH ON THE GANGES”

1. Describe Johnson’s approach to sharing Christ with the devotee of Ganesh. How is this approach effective? Why is it also difficult? (See Luke 6:6-11; 7:36-50; 10:25-37; 20:19-26)
2. Consider the powerful scenes from the people of Varanasi washing in the Ganges. What are our equivalents to “hopelessly scrubbing at their sins in a muddy river”?
3. What part does our own human effort play in the forgiveness of our sins? Consider Romans 3:20-28; 9:30-10:4; Ephesians 2:1-10.
4. On what basis does God forgive your sins? Consider Jeremiah 31:31-34; Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 10:11-18.
5. What is the rightful response to so great a salvation? Consider Hebrews 10:19-39, Romans 6:1-19.

LESSON 4 | “PRIDE AND PREJUDICE”

1. Consider the nurse from Afghanistan. How do the deaths of her co-workers by Islamic militants intensify Christ’s command to “take up your cross and follow Him” (Luke 9:23-27)? How does the Church often misapply these words, reducing the stakes of following Christ?
2. Recall the vast number of gods and “walking dead” worshippers from the scenes in Delhi. How have you in your own way walked among them?
3. In light of the plight of India’s *untouchables*, consider what Proverbs says about the rights of the poor (13:23; 14:21; 17:5; 19:17; 21:13; 22:16, 22-23; 28:27; 29:7; 31:8-9).
4. In light of these Scriptures, how does God want you to respond to poverty, injustice, and the abuse of power in your community?

LESSON 5 | “BAND OF BROTHERS”

1. How does Johnson’s family life stand in sharp contrast to the world outside?
2. Recall what Johnson said about his men: “We are addicted to each other.” Are you experiencing this type of relationship with members of the body of Christ? Why or why not?
3. Who is Sevanthi? What about her story particularly challenges your life?

LESSON 6 | “SOULS OF THE BRAVE”

1. Read Matthew 10:16-39 and Luke 14:25-35. What enables Johnson and the other believers to embrace the obscurity and ridicule that Christ promises his followers? Does anything hinder you from following Christ like this?
2. Read Hebrews 10:32-39, and reflect on the following statement: “perhaps because they [poor Indian believers] have so few treasures, the one Treasure is all the more prized.”
3. In what ways are you prone to treasure God’s gifts over God Himself?